From: Morning Consult
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Subject: Morning Consult Tech, Presented by the Electronic Payments Coalition: Week in Review & What"s Ahead
Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018 2:01:16 PM

By David Mark

Week in Review

Nationalizing 5G

- National security officials reportedly say America needs a centralized nationwide 5G network within three years to guard against incursions by bad actors such as China, and are said to be considering an unprecedented federal takeover of a portion of the nation's mobile network. In a memo, Trump administration figures likened it to "the 21st century equivalent of the Eisenhower National Highway System" and said it would create a "new paradigm" for the wireless industry by the end of President Donald Trump's current term.

Amazon growth

- Amazon.com Inc. is likely to benefit from information gleaned from the 218 cities and states that did not make the second cut of 20 to host its second headquarters. The applications gave Amazon reams of free research the company can mine when picking spots for future warehouses and satellite offices.

- Amazon will "double down" on voice assistant Alexa, company founder and CEO Jeff Bezos said. Amazon posted record fourth-quarter earnings for the company - $1.9 billion, up from $749 million for the same period in 2016.

Chip flaw disclosures

- Intel Corp. reportedly excluded U.S. government authorities from its initial notifications about security flaws in its processors, while informing a small batch of customers, including Chinese technology companies. Intel's choices about who would receive advance warning meant the Department of Homeland Security and National Security Agency were in the dark until staffers learned of the chip flaws from Jan. 3 news reports.

Troop tracking concerns

- Concern over U.S. troop vulnerability from GPS tracking company Strava's Global Heatmap is prompting review of security protocols at the highest levels. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis ordered the review after the technology revealed possible locations of U.S. and other military personnel who typically use high-tech fitness devices, including in war zones, the Middle East and Africa.

- Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), the ranking member of House Energy and Commerce Committee, and fellow Democrats on the panel want to know why Strava published a global "heat map" critics contend endangers U.S. troops and reveals the location of non-public government assets. The letter to Strava CEO James Quarles asks whether the firm took steps to mitigate safety concerns before publishing the heat map.

Facebook makes change to privacy, advertising

- Facebook Inc. plans to put all of users' privacy settings in one place ahead of new European Union regulations set to take effect in May. According to

Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, the new privacy center is intended to "make it much easier for people to manage their data."

- Facebook, which has weathered criticism over the integrity of its advertising platforms, is aiming to block cryptocurrency advertising on the site - and asking users to report any ads that make it through. The social media giant suggested many cryptocurrency sponsors were not acting in "good faith," and are subject to scams and deception.

Mergers

- Two media giants controlled by the family of media entrepreneur Sumner Redstone, CBS Corp. and Viacom Inc., could be coming under the same corporate roof. National Amusements, the Redstone holding company, said it's looking at combining the two television industry behemoths, and lawyers have been hired by both boards, with financial advisers soon to come.

- Tech billionaire Michael Dell is considering putting his two companies, Dell Technologies Inc. and VMware Inc., under the same umbrella. Reportedly, Dell's ultimate goal is to create a structure that would better manage a massive debt load.

Twitter news

- President Donald Trump, known for his prolific use of Twitter Inc., delivered the most tweeted-about State of the Union speech to date, with more than 3 million messages on the social media site. Twitter Government noted the milestone about an hour into the annual presidential address to a joint session of Congress, when Trump surpassed the more than 2.6 million tweets about President Barack Obama's 2015 State of the Union speech.

- Twitter more than doubled, to at least 1.4 million, the amount of people it says interacted with Russian troll-created content during the 2016 elections. The company said it has notified each user individually, though Twitter did not contact those who saw the content but did not engage with it.

- Twitter co-founder Biz Stone and Craiglist Inc. founder Craig Newmark are getting into the fact-checking realm, investing in London-based startup Factama in an effort to root out propaganda, clickbait and other undesirable information on social media platforms. Factama, launched in 2017, aims to use artificial intelligence for its efforts, which come as a swath of prominent

social media companies deal with fallout from alleged Russian-linked efforts to plant misleading information with voters during the 2016 presidential race.

Alphabet on the move

- Alphabet Inc.'s self-driving car unit Waymo LLC revealed an agreement to acquire thousands of minivans from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles N.V., signaling an expansion of plans to open its driverless ride-hailing service to the general public. Since October, Waymo has tested the vehicles without a human driver in suburban Phoenix.

- Former Stanford University President John Hennessy replaced Eric Schmidt as executive chairman of Alphabet, according to a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing. Hennessy joined Google Inc.'s board in 2004, and served as dean of Stanford's engineering school when then-graduate students Sergey Brin and Larry Page developed their now-ubiquitous search engine.

What's Ahead

- The Senate is scheduled to be in session this week, while the House is set to start recess Feb. 8 and return Feb. 13.

- Feb. 8 is the deadline for Congress and the White House to reach agreement on keeping the government open by passing a short-term spending package.

- Apple Inc. plans an in-store release of its first smart speaker, the Apple HomePod, on Friday, Feb. 9. It's been available in Apple's online store since Jan. 26.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

MONDAY

Kennan Institute event on tech and soft power	1 p.m.
Public Knowledge event on privacy legislation	2 p.m.
Consumer Technology Association SXSE preview	5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

MMTC Broadband and Social Justice Summit	8 a.m.
Atlantic Council event on Russian cyber operations	9 a.m.
House Homeland Security Committee hearing on alerts	10 a.m.
Senate Banking Committee hearing on virtual currencies	10 a.m.
Hudson Institute event on conservative communications policy	12 p.m.
Senate Commerce Committee hearing on data security	2:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Incompas Policy Summit 2018	8:30 a.m.
Common Sense event on tech addiction	9 a.m.
R Street Institute event on design patents	10 a.m.

THURSDAY

New America event on tech research amid political divisions	12 p.m.
FCBA brown bag lunch with FCC's CTO	12:15 p.m.
WeWork White House cybersecurity tech talk	6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Vervecon 2018 Tech Conference	7 a.m.

Morning Consult Tech Top Reads

1) Facebook to launch privacy center ahead of EU regulations
Jessica Guynn, USA Today

2) TSA tests facial recognition at LAX
Mark Rockwell, FCW

3) Pentagon reviewing security after fitness apps show locations
Phil Stewart, Reuters

4) Twitter, Craigslist Co-Founders Back Fact-Checking Startup Factmata

Jeremy Kahn, Bloomberg

5) Why you cannot quit Amazon Prime - even if maybe you should
Geoffrey A. Fowler, The Washington Post

6) Waymo to Acquire Thousands of Fiat Chrysler's Self-Driving Minivans
Tim Higgins, The Wall Street Journal

7) Bezos says Amazon plans to 'double down' on Alexa development
Ben Fox Rubin, CNET

8) It's Time to Stand With Rural America and Close the Digital Divide
Richard Cullen, Morning Consult

9) Facebook bans all crypto-currency ads
Dave Lee, BBC News

10) After Era That Made It a Verb, Xerox, in a Sale, Is Past Tense
Steve Lohr and Carlos Tejada, The New York Times

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